

Sunday 28

Had a look at 4 German Mark IV special tanks destroyed: also 1 mark III. Had photo taken with Morris camera by enemy tank. Saw one Mark IV that had been hit by big bomb. A bloody shambles. Turret & big gun blown yards away. The parts of bodies, black & charred among debris. Saw dead Jerry buried. Had been shot in back. Was carrying full equipment including respirator. 11 A.M. moved forward. Passed many big guns left by the enemy - 6 88's: some bigger. Lots of vehicles abandoned. 4 J.U. 88's came over: dropped bombs near road. About 150 Itie. P.W.'s came in. 3 P.M. several M.E. 109's came over straggling. Sheltered behind truck. Bullets whistled past. Milt White wounded (3 bullets in leg.) Bde. I.C. also wounded. Took up positions on feature. Enemy shelling a bit. Attached to A. Coy. Had 2 teas: 5 P.M. at H.Q. 9 P.M. with A. Coy.

Monday 29.

Our tanks went forward at dawn. Enemy sent over only a few shells. Good news. 5 Bde only 8 miles from Gabes. Yanks 16 mls. from SFAX. First Army reinforced by 2 new Divs. Myth line breached. Went on 3 miles. Passed 2 destroyed German Mark IV tanks. Hurricane co-operation plane flew over 5 P.M. & dropped message at Bde. Tea at 6 P.M. Heard that Gabes is in our hands. Moved forward at 7 P.M. Stopped for night at 9 P.M.

Tuesday 30.

On again at 5.30 A.M. Went along main bitumen road. Bailed up  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile outside Gabes. On again. Passed through Gabes. Many trees - oasis. Running stream. First since Nile. Camped outside Gabes in open country. Sea - lovely & blue 3 miles away. Moved on 2 mls. Stopped for night. 4 J.U. 88's over at 7.15 P.M. Much A/A.

Wednesday 31.

Lovely day. Shared. Went to the beach for swim 9-12 o'clock. On way back passed through Gabes. Pretty town. Many beautiful women (French). Much bomb damage. Shifted to area 5 miles away at 5.30 P.M. One of our carriers blown up by mine: driver killed. Tea at 8 P.M. Slept in open in quarry.

April.

Thursday 1 April.

Lovely day. Breakfast 9 A.M. Washed clothes. Wrote to Mum. Sorted out maps: took old ones to Bde. Evening 6.15 P.M. Church service.

Friday 2.

Lovely day. Addressed by the Brigadier (Gentry-D.S.O.) at 9.30. Wrote to Edna. Tidied truck. Listened to B.B.C. at 7 P.M. in Sig. Stores Truck. Played cards till 9.30. Tea & army biscuits for supper.

(+ Killed) Capt. Ball.